A true ACCOUNT of the Murder of the MONK of Whitby, by Lord William de Bruce, of Ugglebarnby, Lord Ralph de Piercy of Sneaton, and Allatſon, a Freeholder; with the Monk's Pennance laid upon them, to be performed on Aſcenſion-Eve every Year, otherwiſe to forfeit their Lands to the Abbot of Whitby.

IN the Fifth Year of the Reign of *Henry* II. after the Conqueſt of *England*, by *William* Duke of *Normandy*; the Lord of *Uglebarnby*, then called *William de Bruce*, the Lord of *Sneaton*, called *Ralph de Piercy*, with a Gentleman and a Freeholder, called *Allatſon*, did on the 16th of *October*, 1159, appoint to meet and hunt the wild Boar, in a certain Wood, or deſart Place, belonging to the Abbot of *Whitby*; the Place's Name was *Eskdale-Side*, and the Abbot's Name was *Sedman*. Then theſe Gentlemen being met, with their Hounds and Boar-Staves, in the Place before-mentioned, and there having found a great wild Boar, the Hounds ran him well near about the Chapel and Hermitage of *Eskdale-Side* where was a Monk of *Whitby*, who was an Hermit. The Boar being very ſore, and very hotly purſued, and dead run, took in at the Chapel Door, and there died, whereupon the Hermit ſhut the Hounds out of the Chapel, and kept himſelf within at his Meditations and Prayers, the Hounds ſtanding at Bay without. The Gentlemen in the Thick of the Wood, being put behind their Game, followed the Cry of their Hounds, and ſo came to the Hermitage, calling on the Hermit, who opened the Door and came forth, and within found the Boar lying dead; for which the Gentlemen in a very great Fury, becauſe their Hounds were put from their Game, did moſt violently and cruelly run at the Hermit with their Boar-Staves, whereby he ſoon after died; therefore the Gentlemen perceiving and knowing that they were in Peril of Death, took Sanctuary at *Scarborough*. But at that Time the Abbot being in very great Favour with King *Henry*, removed them out of the Sanctuary, whereby they came in Danger of the Law, which was Death. But the Hermit being a holy and devout Man, and at the Point of Death, ſent for the Abbot, and deſired him to ſend for the Gentlemen who had wounded him: The Abbot ſo doing, the Gentlemen came, and the Hermit being very ſick and weak, ſaid unto them, "I am ſure to die of thoſe Wounds you have given me;" the Abbot anſwered; "They ſhall ſurely die for the ſame" But the Hermit anſwered, "Not ſo, for I will freely forgive them my Death, if they will be contented to be enjoined this Pennance for the ſafeguard of their Souls." The Gentlemen being preſent, and terrified with the Fear of Death, bid him enjoin what Pennance he would ſo that he would but ſave their Lives. Then ſaid the Hermit, "You and yours ſhall hold your Lands of the Abbot of *Whitby*, and his Succeſſors, in this Manner, "That upon *Aſcenſion-Eve*, you, or ſome of you, ſhall come to the Wood of the *Stray-Heads*, which is in *Eskdale-Side*, the ſame Day at Sun-riſing, and there ſhall the Abbot's Officer blow his Horn, to the Intent that you may know where to find him; and he ſhall deliver unto *William de Bruce*, Ten Stakes, Eleven Strout Stowers, and Eleven Yethers, to be cut by you, or ſome for you with a Knife of one Penny Price; and you *Ralph de Piercy*, ſhall take Twenty-one of each Sort to be cut in the ſame Manner, and you *Allotſon*, ſhall take Nine of each Sort, to be there before Nine of the Clock, the ſame Day before-mentioned: At the ſame Hour of Nine of the Clock, if it be full Sea, your Labour and Service ſhall ceaſe; and, if low Water, each of you ſhall ſet your Stakes to the Brim, each Stake one Yard from the other, and ſo yether them on each Side with your Yethers, and ſo ſtake on each Side with your Strout Stowers, that they may ſtand Three Tides without removing by the Force thereof: Each of you ſhall do, make, and execute the ſaid Service at that very Hour, every Year, except it be full ſea at that Hour; but when it ſhall ſo fall out, this Service ſhall ceaſe. You ſhall faithfully do this, in Remembrance that you did moſt cruelly ſlay me, and that you may the better call to GOD for Mercy, repent unfeignedly of your Sins, and do good Works. The Officer of *Eskdale-Side* ſhall blow, *Out on you, out on you, out on you*, for this heinous Crime. If you, or your Succeſſors, ſhall refuſe this Service, ſo long as it ſhall not be full Sea at the aforeſaid Hour, you, or yours, ſhall forfeit your Lands to the Abbot of *Whitby*, or his Succeſſors. This I entreat and earneſtly beg that you may have Lives and Goods preſerved for this Service. And I requeſt of you to promiſe by your parts in Heaven, that it ſhall be done by you, and your Succeſſors, as it is aforeſaid requeſted; and I will confirm it by the Faith of an honeſt Man." Then the Hermit ſaid, "My Soul longeth for the *Lord*; and in preſence of the Abbot and the Reſt, he ſaid moreover theſe Words, "*In Manus tuas Domine, commendo Spiritum meum, a Vinculis enim Mortis redemiſti me, Domine Veritatis, Amen.*"* So he yielded up the Ghoſt the Eighth Day of *December*, *Anno Domini*, 1159, whoſe Soul GOD have Mercy upon. *Amen.*

* *O Lord, into thy Hands, do I commit my Soul; for from the Chains of Death haſt thou redeemed me, O Lord of Truth.*

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